

REMARKS

Claims 8-10 and 18-37 are pending herein with Claims 18 and 37 being independent claims. Claims 1-7 have been cancelled herein subject to a possible continuation filing. The remaining claims have been cancelled herein subject to a possible divisional filing. Claim 37 is allowed; Claims 1-7, 10, 18-20, 22-25, 27-29, and 32 are rejected; and Claims 8, 9, 21, 26, 30, 31, and 33-36 are objected to.

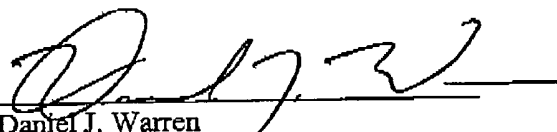
The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the telephone conference of April 8, 2004. Claim 18 was discussed in the context Vicker. The claim has been amended to specify that the apertures extend from one side of the plate to the other so as to accommodate the beverage material containers as opposed to the use of the funnels shown in Figs. 9 and 10 of Vickers. The advantage of this open area is the easy removal of the containers from the plate.

The Applicant also notes that Claim 8 was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. The Applicant has done so. The Applicant asserts that all claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant further adopts its comments in the last Office Action Response concerning the patentability of several of the dependant claims. Any questions may be directed to the undersigned at 404.853.8028.

Respectfully submitted,


Daniel J. Warren
Reg. No. 34,272

SUTHERLAND ASBILL & BRENNAN LLP
999 Peachtree Street, N.E.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3996
(404) 853-8000
(404) 853-8806 (Facsimile)
daniel.warren@sablalaw.com

SAB Docket No.: 25040-0619